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vor, requesting me to "attend and address a public meeting at Metropolitan Hall, on the 3d inst." I deeply regret that other engagements will prevent the indulgence of my earnest desire to accept your invitation. It would afford me the highest gratification to unite with the lion-hearted democracy of New York, in the assertion of those great and fundamental principles which you announce as the basis of the organizations you represent.

Democracy, as I was taught its precepts, and for which I have loved and cherished it, is catholic and expansive in its embraces, recognizing no distinction of place or nation. It is pledged to vindicate and preserve the integrity of the Constitution, and to maintain all its compromises and concessions. It is opposed to those federal dogmas which were enunciated in the era of the "Black Cockade," and which require the candidate at Washington powers and influences that violate State rights, and interfere with local interests and privileges. But heresies of late have been introduced which, by the denial and resistance of these principles, have not merely prostrated the democratic party, but, in aiming a blow at the constitutional immunities of the south, have placed in jeopardy the existence of the Union.

The men whom we have resisted in their assaults upon the Constitution, who have been the systematic and unscrupulous opposers of the "compromise measures"—suddenly assume the position of the chosen friends, and the selected and favored champions of an administration elevated to power by the popular enthusiasm which prevailed the nation in support of those measures. They "stole the lives of heaven to serve the devil," and have then succeeded in beguiling those who should have revolted at their approach. We who know the antecedents of these men, and appreciate their purposes, have not been deceived. The fatuity which induced the national democracy to form with them a hollow truce and a pernicious coalition, has delayed for five years the necessary and inevitable process of a purifying purification. We are now compelled to remove the contest where it was then left, with the same enemies to the Constitution—with the same apostates from the democratic faith.

You are waging a glorious and energetic conflict in the metropolis, and be assured you will receive a deep-toned and enthusiastic response from the democracy of the rural districts. I am, gentlemen, your sincere friend, and your fellow-laborer in the administration of the designs to give life to that faction—a faction whose incendiary purposes may well emulate in history him who fired the Ephesian dome; but this unwise adaptation of means to purposes has verily opened the casket in which the spirit of freeism has been sealed with the seal of the Union, and the spirit of freeism is slowly forming in all its terrible proportions, and it is left for the Executive and the people to imprison it again and forever.

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Local and Personal.

The King of Humbugs.—Presuming on the gullibility of the credulous (after witnessing the successes of numerous charlatans of native growth) foreigners, living by their wits, have, within a few years past, turned their attention to the ample fields of America, and are now reaping golden harvests by their more extravagant pretensions to foretell the destiny of every one who has a little of this world's "gear" with which to "cross their palms."

Sir Walter Scott, in the "Antiquary," speaks of Lovel facing him that he had a dream of a supernatural description, when Jonathan Oldbuck interprets the occurrence to him in the simplest manner, remarking, at the same time, "It is thus that we wily mortals deceive ourselves, and look out of doors for motives which originate in our own wills." Mr. Oldbuck adds, in relation to the conclusions which Lovel drew from his supposed nocturnal revelation: "As for the waking wisdom which seized on so frivolous a circumstance as an apology for persevering in some course which it could find no better reason to justify, it is exactly one of those juggling tricks which the sagacious of us play off now and then to gratify our inclination at the expense of our understanding."

This applies not merely in the case of common sleep and dreaming, but also to phenomena of all kinds supposed to be connected with extra-natural or extra-sensuous agency.

But as to the King of Humbugs: He throws all the minor fortune-telling pretensions into the darkest nooks of obscurity. He even publishes and circulates gratuitously an "Astronomical Almanac for 1853." The writer hereof not only had a copy handed to him in the street, but one thrown into his dwelling-house; and we presume, judging from the bulk of the documents in the arms of the distributors, that our citizens generally have been as well supplied as we with printed tissue of gross, palpable, and unconscionable falsehoods, based upon the principle, the greater the lie the greater the belief.

The astrologer, of whom we are speaking, opens with the assertion that he "is the seventh son of a seventh son," hence his success in his profession—not only foretelling, but controlling future events by a consultation with the stars, and by conjurations and mighty magic! Every one, he says, "should secure a nativity," as this is of "the utmost importance." It "teaches one to avoid misfortune, gives the proper time to undertake journeys, contract marriage, enter into business, &c." A nativity "is worth from one to ten thousand dollars, according to the good or bad fortune of the applicant." These nativities, however, are furnished for from one dollar to five. "All essential particulars will be stated, so that no mistake or misunderstanding can possibly occur."

This humbug, we might as well state in passing, has, after "great trouble and expense," become the proprietor of the truly wonderful optical instrument, the phantasmagoria, or mirror of fate, which reveals the "likeness of intended husbands and wives, and absent friends!"

The "blessing of the age" is the power of conjurations, combined with geomancy, for the curing of diseases. Dyspepsia, fits, weak eyes, cancers, deafness, ulcers, consumption, neuralgia, kings' evil, St. Vitus's dance, rheumatism; in fact, every ill to which flesh is heir, has been removed by this unfailing remedial agent! It has also been the means of recovering stolen property, putting greenhouses on the path to fortune, curing people of telling lies, blessing innumerable Sarahs with household crying-and-laughing comfits; provoking ladies with husbands, causing their former admirers to return to their "first love," and enter into the holy bonds of matrimony; re-establishing peace between husband and wife; re-establishing dukedoms; saving young ladies from suicide; collecting debts of long standing; securing prizes in lotteries; in fact, the geomancy and conjurations, separate or together, have accomplished wonders.

The "King of the Humbugs" lives in a distant city, but he says he can prescribe just as well by letter as in person—the fee comes to him.

A more reckless disregard of truth was never before evidenced in a publication similar to the "astronomical almanac." None but the ruler of the universe possesses the power which this foreign adventurer claims. But every sensible person will regard it in the light of a base effort to mislead the ignorant, and to abstract money from the pockets of the credulous and superstitious; of whom, in the language of a truthful book, "many remain unto this day."

A Little Incident occurred several days ago—not important to be sure, but yet pleasant enough to be mentioned. A gentleman, while conversing with a friend in his office, was complaining that he had several notes to meet, and could not imagine where the money was to be procured for that purpose, he having been disappointed in his calculations. Just about this time a small girl came in, rattled upon a few chips, and was on her way to the place which she designated with the name of "home." She was barefooted and her ankles were as red as beet. The friend remarked to the gentleman, "there's a chance for the exercise of your charity. Buy her a pair of shoes, and before night you'll get money enough to pay your notes." The gentleman, not hesitating, ordered a good pair of shoes. She thanked her benefactor, and then skipped away with a light heart, rejoicing; while the benevolent gentleman participated largely in the joy which his generosity had produced on the object of his sympathy.

Before the lapse of an hour, as his friend had predicted, several persons called to pay the gentleman money; and he received not only a sufficient amount to meet his obligations, but had more than enough remaining to buy a pair of boots for himself.

Accident.—On Friday night, Mr. Francis Jones, one of the Georgetown watchmen, was seriously injured. It appears that at eleven o'clock the captain aroused his subordinates for duty, but Jones, not being sufficiently awake, mistook his way out, and stepping off an unguarded end of the balcony, fell to the ground, a distance of twenty feet. In consequence, his head is badly bruised, knee cut, and wrist broken; in addition to other damage.

A Cold Bath.—Yesterday morning, about five o'clock, a poor unfortunate white man, who had taken an over dose of alcohol, fell into the canal, and would have drowned, probably, had it not been for one of the auxiliary guard who, hearing the cries of the sufferer, rushed to his rescue. Shivering and dripping wet, he was conveyed to the central lock-up, whence he was committed to the work-house department of the Washington Asylum.

An Attempt at Suicide was recently made by one of our citizens, who, for some time past, has been suffering from melancholy. Being unsuccessful, he yesterday provided himself with the means to deprive himself of existence, but was again rescued by his friends. The delicate nature of the mind, and its consequent liability to disease, should ever warn us to guard it, as far as we can, from all morbid influences whatsoever.

Circuit Court.—On motion of Col. M. Thompson, yesterday morning, Mr. C. Clement Venable was admitted to practice in this court. The jury cases will be commenced to-morrow.

THE THOMAS COLLYER will leave the regular steamboat wharf, leaving the Capitol at 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526,